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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/060 W
---------- 005011
P R 191656Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6794
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: ELECTIONS: CAMPAIGN APPROACHES CONCLUSION

REF: LISBON 2484 (DTG 151622Z APR 76)

SUMMARY: THE CDS APRIL 15 RALLY IN BEJA WENT OFF WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT UNDER HEAVY SECURITY. THE PARTIES ARE SEEKING TO PEAK DURING THIS THIRD AND FINAL WEEK OF THE FORMAL CAMPAIGN AND PLANNING LARGE RALLIES TO CLOSE OUT THEIR CAMPAIGNS. THE PARTIES ARE INCREASING THEIR ATTACKS ON EACH OTHER AS THEY SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE DECISIVE BLOC OF UNDECIDED VOTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. CDS IN BEJA AND FARO: THE CDS STAGED A POORLY-ATTENDED RALLY IN BEJA APRIL 15 WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT AND
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UNDER HEAVY PROTECTION FROM POLICE, NATIONAL GUARD,

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AND MILITARY UNITS FROM THE SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION (REFTEL). THE CDS ALSO HELD ITS FIRST RALLY EVER IN FARO APRIL 17; CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL AND GEN GALVAO DE MELO ADDRESSED SEVERAL HUNDRED SUPPORTERS WITH POLICE PROTECTION.

2. EASTER WEEKEND: THE PPD AND PCP SOUGHT TO CAPITALIZE ON THE FESTIVE EASTER MOOD BY HOLDING OPEN-AIR RALLIES APRIL 18 IN LISBON. DESPITE POOR WEATHER, BOTH EVENTS DREW SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE. PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO AND PCP LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL SPENT THE WEEKEND CAMPAIGNING IN AREAS OF STRENGTH; SA CARNEIRO IN MADEIRA AND CUNHAL IN THE ALENTEJO. THE PS STAGED AN INDOOR RALLY IN OPORTO WITH MARIO SOARES AND SALGADO ZENHA PRESENT (SEPTEL).

3. ELECTION MOOD: THE PARTIES HAVE STAGED THOUSANDS OF RALLIES, CARAVANS, AND QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSIONS IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE FORMAL CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, POPULAR ENTHUSIASM IS DOWN FROM A YEAR AGO. THE MAJOR PARTIES WILL ATTEMPT TO PEAK DURING THIS THIRD AND LAST WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH ENDS MIDNIGHT, APRIL 23. THE PPD PLANS TO CLOSE OUT ITS CAMPAIGN WITH LARGE RALLIES IN OPORTO APRIL 22 AND IN LISBON APRIL 23. THE PS WILL STAGE CLOSING RALLIES IN LISBON AND SETUBAL. THE PARTIES ARE INCREASING THEIR ATTACKS ON EACH OTHER AS THEY SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE DECISIVE BLOC OF UNDECIDED VOTERS.
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